

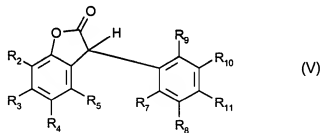
In the claims:

1-10 (cancelled).

11. A process for reducing the discoloration produced upon contact with nitrogen oxides originating from combustion gases during curing in a gas oven of heat-curable powder coating compositions which comprise [[s]] an epoxy resin, a polyester-hydroxyalkylamide, a polyester-glycoluril, an epoxy-polyester resin, a polyester-triglycidyl isocyanurate, a hydroxy-functional polyester-blocked polyisocyanate, a hydroxy-functional polyester-uretdione, an acrylate resin with hardener or a mixture of such resins, and the coatings produced therefrom,
~~comprising which process comprises incorporating into or applying to said compositions before curing at least one compound of the benzofuran-2-one type as stabilizer.~~
~~which compositions in the course of curing, are in contact with nitrogen oxides originating from combustion gases.~~

12-16. (cancelled).

17. (new) A process according to claim 11, wherein the benzofuran-2-one is a compound of the formula V

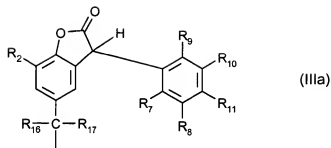


wherein

R₂ is hydrogen or C₁-C₈alkyl,

R₃ is hydrogen,

R₄ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈alkyl or a radical of the formula IIIa



R₅ is hydrogen,

R₇, R₈, R₉ and R₁₀ independently of one another are hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl or C₁-C₄alkoxy,

R₁₁ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl or C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₂-C₈alkanoyloxy or $\text{—O—}\overset{\overset{\text{R}_{20}}{\text{|}}}{\underset{\underset{\text{H}}{\text{|}}}{\text{C}}}\text{—}\overset{\overset{\text{R}_{21}}{\text{|}}}{\underset{\underset{\text{R}_{22}}{\text{|}}}{\text{C}}}\text{—O—R}_{23}$, with the

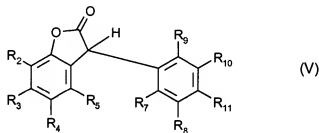
proviso that at least two of the radicals R₇, R₈, R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₁ are hydrogen;

R₁₆ and R₁₇, together with the C atom to which they are attached, form an unsubstituted or mono- to tri-C₁-C₄alkyl-substituted cyclohexylidene ring,

R₂₀, R₂₁ and R₂₂ are hydrogen, and

R₂₃ is C₂-C₁₈alkanoyl.

18. (new) A process according to claim 17, wherein the benzofuran-2-one is a compound of the formula V

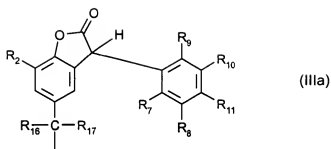


in which

R₂ is tert-butyl,

R₃ is hydrogen,

R₄ tert-butyl or a radical of the formula IIIa



R_5 is hydrogen,

R_7 , R_8 , R_9 and R_{10} independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or C_1 - C_4 alkoxy,

R_{11} is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_2 - C_8 alkanoyloxy or $-O-\overset{\overset{R_{20}}{|}}{\underset{\underset{H}{|}}{C}}-\overset{\overset{R_{21}}{|}}{\underset{\underset{R_{22}}{|}}{C}}-O-R_{23}$, with the

proviso that at least two of the radicals R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} and R_{11} are hydrogen;

R_{16} and R_{17} , together with the C atom to which they are attached, form a cyclohexylidene ring,

R_{20} , R_{21} and R_{22} are hydrogen, and

R_{23} is C_2 - C_{18} alkanoyl.

19. (new) A process according to claim 11, wherein the benzofuran-2-one is present in an amount of from 0.001 to 10% based on the weight of the powder coating composition.

20. (new) A process according to claim 11, wherein the powder coating composition comprises as further additives one or more components from the group consisting of pigments, dyes, fillers, levelling assistants, devolatilizing agents, charge control agents, optical brighteners, adhesion promoters, antioxidants, light stabilizers, curing catalysts, photoinitiators, wetting auxiliaries or corrosion protection agents.

21. (new) A process according to claim 11, wherein the powder coating composition comprises as further additives one or more components from the group consisting of phenolic antioxidants, sterically hindered amines, organic phosphites, organic phosphonites and thiosynergists.